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CIA got spy data from city

By Robert Unger

THE CENTRAL Intelligence Agency improperly amassed information about Chicagoans with the help of the Chicago Police Department's Red Squad, according to CIA documents released by a civil rights group Tuesday.

The operations were conducted against antiwar activists in the late 1960s and early 1970s. The conducting of such domestic activities was a violation of the CIA's 1947 charter.

The charges were made by the Alliance to End Repression and were supported by documents released to the group by the CIA in a local court action.

THE DOCUMENTS include city police reports taken from CIA files and bearing CIA file numbers, CIA weekly situation reports on Chicago peace activists, and information gathered on former Chicago Ald. A. A. [Sammy] Rayner in his unsuccessful 1970 campaign for Congress.

A CIA Telex message in the released files also names Patrick Needham, a Chicago deputy police superintendent, as "liaison contact" with the CIA and calls him "a most cooperative, understanding, and helpful police official who has

Continued from page one

assisted this office many times in the last 10 years."

The telex message was dated May 26, 1977.

"THE DOCUMENTS we've obtained indicate that the CIA was gathering information on a broad spectrum of activities in Chicago," said the group's attorney, Richard Gutman, in a Loop press conference.

"We think that this demonstrates that the Chicago Police Department had an ongoing relationship with the CIA; that they worked together."

The documents were released by the Chicago Political Surveillance Litigation & Education Project, an arm of the Alliance to End Repression. The group's suit against the city about alleged sur-

veillance abuses led to the CIA's court-ordered production of the documents.

Though the documents show that the CIA put the information in its files, Gutman said, "there is nothing to suggest the CIA stepped in and did the gathering."

HE SAID THAT he and his group believed such direct CIA involvement "would have been the next step if they had not been caught."

Gutman said he did not know the extent of Needham's cooperation with the CIA. "But now," he said, "we know whom to go to for a deposition."

Needham, however, later denied that he had ever provided the CIA with any information involving "police investigations or surveillance of any kind."

He said that his contact with the CIA dates to 1968 or 1969 and was limited to arrangements for visiting officials and State Department business.

Rayner and Gutman were joined at the press conference by Sid Lens, a writer and peace activist. Lens' CIA file produced some of the documents released Tuesday, including a letter he had written to a friend in the Soviet Union. The file showed that the letter had been opened and copied.

"DESPITE THE FACT that they considered me a 'loyal citizen,'" he said, "they had 200 pages on me."

Lens said the information concerned "his friends, employers, and sex life."

Rayner was asked whether he thought the CIA continued such domestic work today despite widespread controversy about its domestic spying activities in the last few years.

"Whenever I spoke I always assumed there was a preposterous in the room reporting to the CIA," he said. "Just as I do today."